



## FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

Our meeting this month will be at the Sonoma PD EOC room and the main order of business is to prepare for our upcoming Hamfest on the 26th.

We need a big turnout so that we can get all the members assigned to a duty. I am looking at the signup sheet and there are still a lot of slots still empty, so we need everybody to step and lend a hand, especially in the kitchen.

Frank, KG6N, Judy and I attended the DX convention in Visalia. It was well attended and a lot of very nice equipment was raffled off. Unfortunately, I wasn't one of the winners.

While there, I purchased the Kenwood TS-590 for the club. It was a good price but the tax brought it up to \$1600. I have been playing with it and am impressed with its performance.

We mourn the passing of Bob Davis, WA6YTW. Bob, at one time, was a big DXer with over 300 countries worked. We are in the process of helping Marie sell his equipment. A crew will probably be needed to help in taking down a couple of masts.

In closing, another appeal to all to help with the hamfest.

See you at the meeting.

—73, Jim, K6UUW

## NEXT MEETING

April 19, 7:30pm  
City of Sonoma EOC  
Topic: Prepare for Hamfest

## Minutes March 19, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 7:33ish PM by our esteemed President, Jim Hill, K6UUW

Members present at the meeting were:  
K6UUW, (Jim), KD6FIL (Dave), KG6QNT (Eileen), N6KM (Ken), W1EJ (Ed), N6PWV (Ken), KG6N (Frank), K6KLL (Alan), N7PIB (San), KA6ZIN (Ron), WD6BOR (Darrel), KJ6EIG (Bill), WB6TMH (Mike).

Minutes from the February meeting were approved with no corrections.

Correction to the March Newsletter: Contrary to what was in the Newsletter, San only attended Young Eagles once and Frank brought his CW magic with his side kick Natalia.

## Report from officers:

**President:** Jim's mobile antennas are working thanks to expert consultation from NJ6E. Jim installed a coil of coax to act as a choke and that solved his problem. He made a number of DX contacts while driving around Sonoma that day!

**Vice President:** Gordon, W6DDU, says hi and is sorry he couldn't make the meeting.

**Treasurer:** We currently have \$2,424.57 dollars in the bank. Dues are due and we have received \$370 in dues and have 31 members paid.

**ACS:** April 17<sup>th</sup> is the Volunteer Recognition Party. It is a fun event with raffle prizes given away. ACS is going to start having a separate meeting from the VOMARC meeting about every 2 months. Ken met with Fire Chief Garcia. Chief Garcia is the new ACS Liaison and a licensed ham. Ken said the meeting with the Chief was very positive and that ACS will have a good relationship with the Chief. There is a Level 1 training scheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup>. Any ACS member who has not taken this training in the last year must take it April 5<sup>th</sup> to remain active in ACS.

**Secretary:** No news. Too busy taking notes!

**Website:** VE Session Dates are correct, but the year is wrong.

**Training:** The next project at the High School might be a crystal radio. WD6BOR has some electric motor kits that might be a fun project. Arduino kits could be used to control the motor. Thank you to George, K6ITE, for the box of parts that will be put to good use.

## **Old Business**

### **Net Control for VOMARC Wednesday Night**

**Net:** Net Controls for VOMARC: June, W1EJ, July KE6EIG, August N6KM and September KG6N

**Radio Replacement:** Will miracles never cease! K6UUW has converted to Kenwood and likes the TS590. It was motioned, seconded and approved to sell the FT950 as soon as possible so we can move forward with a radio purchase. We will keep the carrying case and the Signalink (though we do not need the Signalink anymore and can sell it at the Hamfest). Another motion was made seconded and approved (with one vote against) to purchase a TS590 after we sell the FT950. Thanks to everyone and especially NJ6E for all the research on the different radios. (It converted Jim!)

**Young Eagles:** Young Eagles was awesome in March! We made a number of contacts to Europe on 10 and 12 meters. The next Young Eagles is April 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **New Business**

**N6P:** This is the Point Reyes Lighthouse on the Air event on August 16 and 17. KD6FIL will set up the event. Ken has the information on the contact at Point Reyes and how to apply for the N6P call sign.

**Hamfest:** The Hamfest is on April 26. Jason is going to do a demonstration on his helicopters. There will be a digital voice over radio demonstration as well. We need a detailed inventory of what we have in stock so we don't run out this year. Jim is looking for help on this. The advertising is moving forward. WD6BOR got the information to QST and CQ to get in the magazines. Jim got a list of all ARRL associated clubs in the area and did a mass email with the hamfest flyer. On one of Jim's regular trips to HRO he dropped off a flyer for them to post. HRO faxed a copy to the Sunnyvale store. We still need to get something to the IT and the Sun to get in the newspaper. K6KLL will put a spot on his radio show whenever Jim schedules it. We are now charging \$8 for breakfast. If we can get someone to deliver breakfasts and sodas to the vendors, we can make more money. To do this we need more volunteers. We need to start with an email to all the members and follow that up with phone calls. There is a question of when we can get into the building. Jim was going to check on that. We need to look at the possibility of expanding the hamfest to include other hobbies so we can get more people and more volunteers.

The next meeting is April 16.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. That was when the secretary had to go home, who knows when it finally wrapped up.

—Respectfully submitted, Dave KD6FIL

## Public Service: Amateur Radio-Developed Software Assisting in Search for Missing Airliner

US Navy personnel helping to look for missing Malaysia Air Flight MH370 have used the signal-processing and analysis package *Spectrum Laboratory* by Wolf Buescher, DL4YHF, to analyze recently detected 37.5 kHz "pings" that may be from the missing plane's "black box." Some *Spectrum Laboratory* screen shots as seen aboard the Australian defense vessel *Ocean Shield* were shown on TV in Australia and in the UK. The US Navy personnel are guests aboard the Australian ship. VLF experimenter Warren Ziegler, K2ORS, said the software is the same package Amateur Radio experimenters used recently to detect [transatlantic signals](#) on 29 kHz.

(from ARRL newsletter)

—submitted by Jim K6UUW

## Your League: ARRL Releases First *Repeater Directory* App for Android Devices



ARRL has introduced its first Android app for locating Amateur Radio repeater frequencies in the US and Canada -- *The ARRL Repeater*

*Directory*®...Powered by *Travel Plus*™. Android phone and mobile device users can download the app at no cost from Google Play™ (an Apple iOS version is coming soon). The free app provides limited access to *The ARRL Repeater Directory* database. Users may

purchase a subscription to the *completed* database of 23,000 repeaters, but the full version of the app is included in the price of *The ARRL Repeater Directory* print editions.

(from ARRL newsletter)

—submitted by Jim K6UUW

## Technology: WWV's 25 MHz Signal Back on the Air

[WWV](#) silenced its 25 MHz signal in 1977, but it's back on the air "for old times' sake" -- on an "experimental basis." Resurrecting the long-dormant standard time outlet operated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology ([NIST](#)) was Matt Deutch, N0RGT, the lead electrical engineer at WWV. (from ARRL newsletter)

—submitted by Jim K6UUW

THE SENSATIONAL, NEW BRETING "6"

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVER

**FEATURING**

- Electrical Band Spread
- Iron Core IF
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- Separate BFO Tube
- Doublet Input
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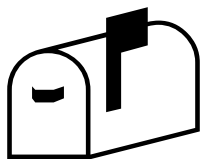
Unsurpassed for quality, workmanship, engineering and design, this receiver has a frequency coverage of 550KC to 30 megacycles in four bands. Dimensions are 8x8x12. For further particulars see your jobber or write.

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**32.40**  
**COMPLETE!**

**BRETING RADIO MANUFACTURING COMPANY**  
1815 Venice Boulevard  
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## Guess the year!

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW



## We Get Email...

You and your members are cordially invited to the ARRL sanctioned Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club's annual Hamfest which is to be held the first Saturday, in June.

For information see our website  
<http://www.ysarc.org>.

If you want to register in advance, you can send reservations along with vendor fees to: Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1169, Yuba City, CA 95992-9169. 73, De Larry - KE6LAW

## FCC TO REINSTATE MORSE CODE TEST

"It was a big mistake eliminating the Morse Code test," admits FCC official

—By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Washington, D.C. – April 1, 2014 - Today, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission or FCC) approved Report and Order 14-987af which reinstates the Morse Code test for General Class and Amateur Extra Class licensees. "It was a big mistake eliminating the Morse Code test," admits Dotty Dasher, the FCC's director of examinations. "We now realize that being able to send and receive Morse Code is an essential skill for radio amateurs. As they say, it really does get through when other modes can't."

Not only will new applicants have to take the test, but General Class licensees who have never passed a code test will have one year to pass a 5-wpm code test. Similarly, Amateur Extra class licensees that never passed a code test will have one year to pass a 13-wpm test. Those amateurs that fail to pass the test will face revocation of their operating privileges. Materials for administering the examinations will be distributed to Volunteer Examiner Coordinators by the end of April, so that they can begin the testing on May 1, 2014.

"This isn't going to be one of those silly multiple-choice type tests," noted Dasher. "We're going to be sending five-character random code groups, just like we did in the old days. And, applicants will have to prove that they can send, too, using a poorly adjusted straight key."

Technician Class licensees will not be required to take a Morse Code test, nor will a test be required for new applicants. "We discussed it," said Dasher, "but decided that since most Techs can't even figure out how to program their HTs, requiring them to learn Morse Code seemed like cruel and unusual punishment."

When asked what other actions we might see from the FCC, Dasher hinted that in the future applicants taking the written exam may be required to draw circuit diagrams, such as Colpitts oscillators and diode ring mixers, once again. "We're beginning to think that if an applicant passes an amateur radio license exam it should mean that he or she actually knows something," she said.

For further information, contact James X. Shorts, Assistant Liaison to the Deputy Chief of Public Relations for the FCC at (202) 555-1212 or [jim.shorts@fcc.gov](mailto:jim.shorts@fcc.gov). For more news and information about the FCC, please visit [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov).

(April Fool!)

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Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No-Nonsense" amateur radio study guides and a leading amateur radio blogger. You can find his study guides by going to his blog at [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com). You can contact Dan by e-mail at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com), or, after you pass the test, by CW. Look for him at the bottom of just about any HF band.

## **THE VOMARC WIRELESS VOLUME 18 EDITION 4**

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon  
Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF  
Honorary President in Perpetuity

### **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

Jim Hill, K6UUW – President, Training Officer

Frank Wiebusch, KD6KVL—Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – ACS Unit Leader

Sanford Smith, N7PIB – VE Liaison

Jim Hill, K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Webmeistress, Editor

*Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after  
benefits of membership in VOMARC—S. Marler.*

**CLUB MEETINGS** are held on the third Wednesday of  
each month at McDougal Hall at the Sonoma  
Developmental Center, Eldridge or the City of Sonoma  
Police Department EOC 175 1<sup>st</sup> St West. Meetings start  
at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

**WEB PAGE:** <http://www.vomarc.org/>

**Nets** are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30  
P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350  
repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

**ACS** holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on  
the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

**PACKET STATION INFO:** The VOMARC packet station  
is off the air until further notice.

**CLUB BREAKFASTS** are held on the first Saturday of  
each month at Palms Grill (formerly Issa's) Restaurant,  
18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at  
09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

**Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.**

c/o Sonoma Police Department  
175 First Street West  
Sonoma, CA 95476

**2014 ACS  
Net Control Assignments**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Call</b>
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	SCOTT	KI6QIQ
APRIL		
MAY	GEORGE	K6ITE
JUNE		
JULY	CRAIG	KF6QZP
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WD6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**2014 VOMARC  
Net Control Assignments**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Call</b>
JANUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	WIEJ
JUNE		
JULY		
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER		
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

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**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE APRIL 16, 2014, 7:30 PM AT THE CITY OF SONOMA EOC, 175  
1<sup>ST</sup> ST W, AT THE SONOMA POLICE DEPARTMENT.  
SEE YOU THERE.**

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**VOMARC MEMBERSHIP**

**VOMARC 2014**    Membership Dues:   \$15/year individual;      \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ APT: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

VOMARC: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Complimentary with Class--Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Moment, From the Database Queen**

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1<sup>st</sup> St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting.

Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC.**